



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/571,864	03/14/2006	Marc A. Huber	PHUS030337US	6962
7590	10/18/2007		EXAMINER	
Thomas E Kocovsky Jr Fay Sharpe Fagan Minnich & McKee 1100 Superior Avenue Seventh Floor Cleveland, OH 44114-2579			SONG, HOON K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2882	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/18/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/571,864	HUBER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Hoon Song	2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 2-10 and 15-24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 2-6, 9, 10, 15-17 and 22 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 7, 8, 18, 19, 23 and 24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 20 and 21 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 March 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pattee (US 6615428B1).

Regarding claim 7, Pattee teaches a telescopic table system-for imaging subject in at least a first modality and a second modality the table comprising:

a base 130;

an intermediate pallet 120 having a tip and a trailing edge mounted to the base for longitudinal movement between at least a retracted position and an extended position with the tip extending outward from the base;

a subject pallet 110 having a leading edge and a trailing edge;

bearing supports 117 mounted adjacent the subject pallet trailing edge such that the subject pallet is cantilevered therefrom, the bearing supports being mounted to the intermediate pallet for longitudinal movement therealong; and

a locking mechanism 129 which locks the intermediate pallet against moving until the subject pallet is retracted to a substantially fully retracted position with respect to the intermediate pallet (column 3 lines 9-16).

Regarding claim 8, Pattee teaches an unlocking mechanism 129 which locks the subject pallet into the retracted position and releases the locking mechanism, permitting the intermediate pallet to move, and a drive mechanism which drives the intermediate pallet between its fully retracted position and its extended position (column 3 lines 9-16).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18-19 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeSilets et al. (US 6961606B2) in view of DeSilets et al. (US 2003/0078489A1).

Regarding claim 18, DeSilets ('606) teaches a medical imaging system comprising:

a first imaging system 110;

a second imaging system 120;

a common patient support table 130, wherein the patient support table is movable between a first position where an object to be imaged is within an imaging region of the first imaging system and a second position where the object is positioned within an imaging region of the second imaging system;

wherein said common patient support table is cantilevered in both the first position and the second position such that an axial deflection of the patient support table in the first position is the same as an axial deflection of the patient support table in the second position (figure 3).

DeSilets ('606) fails to teach a catcher 450 disposed between the first and second imaging system.

DeSilets ('489) teaches a catcher 134.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide support system of '606 with the catcher as taught by DeSilets ('489), since the catcher would reduce deflection of the table.

Regarding claim 19, DeSilets teaches the patient support table includes a main support pallet (base), an intermediate support pallet (coach support) and a patient support pallet (coach) (see figure 1 where the table 130 is made of three elements).

Regarding claim 23, DeSilets teaches a lift mechanism that raises and lowers the catcher.

Regarding claim 24, DeSilets teaches said common patient support table is cantilevered in both the first position and the second position (figure 2).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-4, 5-6 9-10 15-17 and 22 are allowed over prior art.

Claims 20-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 20, the prior art fails to teach the intermediate support pallet and the patient support pallet extend from the main support pallet when the patient support table is in the first position, and wherein the patient support pallet extends from the intermediate support pallet and the intermediate support pallet is supported on the catcher when the patient support table is in the second position.

Regarding claim 21, the prior art fails to teach one or more support members are positioned between the patient support pallet and the intermediate pallet such that when the patient support pallet extends from the intermediate pallet, the patient support pallet is cantilevered on the intermediate pallet.

Response to Arguments

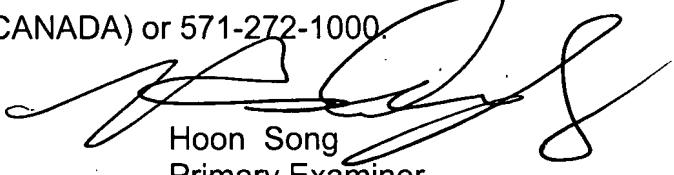
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7-8, 18-19 and 23-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoon Song whose telephone number is (571) 272-2494. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM - 7 PM, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Glick can be reached on (571) 272 - 2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Hoon Song
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2882

10/12/2007